



Spring
2004



HOOSIER SAFETY

A Publication of
The Indiana State Emergency Management Agency
and Department of Fire and Building Services

FAREWELL



*Patrick R. Ralston is honored
by the General Assembly for his dedicated
service to the State of Indiana.*

After a 34-year career in public service, former State Emergency Management (SEMA)/Department of Fire and Building Services (DFBS) and Public Safety Training Institute (PSTI) Director Patrick R. Ralston left government for the private sector at the end of March.

Ralston began his state career in 1974 with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources; and in

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WELCOME



Luther J. Taylor, Sr.

Luther J. Taylor, Sr. assumed command of SEMA/DFBS/PSTI on April 5th. He is no stranger to public safety.

Governor Joe Kernan knows Director Taylor well from his time as mayor of South Bend and drew on that experience in appointing Taylor to his newest position. "Luther has all the tools necessary to excel at this job," Kernan said. "Entrusting him with the leadership and coordination of our re-

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EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

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At the request of Governor Joe Kernan, President George W. Bush declared Indiana a major disaster area due to an earthquake along the New Madrid Seismic Zone. The earthquake occurred on March 21 at 5:20 am and registered 7.6 on the open ended Richter Scale. The epicenter was located at Wickliff, Kentucky. 300 people reported dead, 81 critical, 762 major injuries, 4,209 minor injuries. Volunteers and Donations - Please do not.....

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

And that was the way it was.....for “*Heartland Response 2004*” - a Headquarters First United States Army Functional Scale Exercise conducted March 22-23, 2004.

The 1st U.S. Army is a highly specialized team of active Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve soldiers, and Department of the Army civilian employees. The 1st U.S. Army trains, mobilizes, and deploys Army Reserve and National Guard units in the eastern United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. As directed, it conducts Homeland Defense, in support of national objectives. The 1st U.S. Army’s Core Functions are to train, mobilize, and deploy Army units in support of homeland defense and, as directed, conduct Civil Support and Emergency Preparedness.

Key elements of the 1st Army along with participating agencies from Indiana - Military Department of Indiana (MDI), Indiana State Police (ISP), Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), Department of Fire and Building Services (DFBS), Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), Indiana Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disasters - which includes the American Red Cross (INVOAD, ARC), Indiana Department of Animal Health (BOAH), and Social Service Administration (FSSA), Department of Labor, and the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) worked from the State Emergency Operations Center.

The exercise scenario was as follows:

“On Saturday, March 20th there a 5.9 (moderate) earthquake occurs in the New Madrid Seismic Zone. There was minor damage from tremors felt as far north as Desota, Illinois and south to Pulaski, Illinois.

Further earthquakes are predicted.

Very early Sunday, March 21st, a 7.6 earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone occurs. The epicenter was near Wickliffe, Kentucky. There was much more damage reported. The tremors were felt as far north as Chicago, Illinois and as far south as Vicksburg, Mississippi, east as far as Cincinnati, Ohio and west as far as Springfield, Missouri. Around 5:30 a.m., two aftershocks of 6.6 and 7.1 occurred. The reporting epicenter of these shocks were Cairo, Illinois and Bardwell, Kentucky. Especially hard hit was metropolitan Evansville, Indiana.

Severe damage is being reported to highways, railways, bridges, levees, dams, buildings, electrical towers, power stations and lines, pipelines, and communication facilities. Numerous fires have been caused by ruptures to crude oil, refined petroleum, natural gas pipelines, and tank farms. Numerous chemical and petroleum plants are heavily damaged. There are several uncontrolled chemical releases reported all over southwestern Indiana. Expect hundreds dead, thousands needing medical attention and an excess of 5,000 homeless.”

Some of the specific objectives to be accomplished, or demonstrated, by staff members from the participating agencies during the course of exercise-play were:

All participating State Agencies showed they could work in conjunction with the First Army and the Indiana National Guard regarding the Emergency Operations Center activation.

SEMA was to demonstrate its ability to direct and control the conduct of emergency operations from that center during emergencies and disasters. SEMA also

See “Exercise” page 3

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“EXERCISE” *from page 2*

The Indiana State Emergency Operations Center was fully staffed during a 48-hour period for Heartland Response 2004. Multi-agency information exchange and sharing was effectively demonstrated by using the “TRACSYS” (Emergency Task and Response Tracking System).

would show the ability to collect and disseminate emergency public information, establish and use a Joint Information Center, demonstrate the ability to outline communications and warning procedures and capabilities to be employed in the event of a large scale emergency within the State of Indiana. SEMA was also responsible for outlining communications linked with response entities, while at the same, time coordinating all communication efforts, including the possibility of a Federal request to support the state EOC and local response efforts.

INDOT would demonstrate the ability to provide transportation, construction maintenance and engineering support to assist local government(s) in needs related to lifesaving or life-protecting issues in accordance with the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

MDI demonstrated the ability too provide orderly and supplemental military assistance to the state and local governments in their responsibilities to alleviate suffering and damage resulting from major disasters and emergencies.

ISP was able to bring together all state agencies with law enforcement capabilities to eliminate, or reduce to a minimal tolerance, any action which is, or threatens to become, of serious or epidemically proportions.

DFBS proved capable of managing and coordinating fire fighting activities, including the detection and suppression of fires on federal and state lands, and provided personnel, equipment and supplies in support of state and local agencies involved in rural and urban fire fighting operations.

EMS demonstrated the ability to provide the state with coordinated assistance to supplement local resources in response to the public health and medical care needs

following a significant natural disaster or man-made event.

ISDH provided coordinated assistance to supplement local resources in response to public health and medical care needs following a major disaster or emergency, or during a developing potential medical situation.

ARC showed the ability to provide short and/or long term sheltering for displaced persons that were required to relocate because of an incident created by a natural or man-made disaster and assured that general relief needs would be met during an emergency.

BOAH would demonstrate the ability to coordinate state assistance and activities involving response to an animal health care.

URC demonstrated the ability to regulate the distribution of electricity through generation stations, transmission and distribution networks that create and supply the electricity to the end-user to achieve and maintain nominal functionality.

IDEM was able to show their ability to provide state support to local efforts in response to an actual or potential discharge and/or release of hazardous materials and coordinate required environmental assessments and corrective actions.

FSSA and the Labor Department demonstrated how they would provide support to other state and local government agencies in the event of a natural and/or man-made disaster.

The following excerpt from the 1st Army’s “Exercise Evaluation & After Action Report” indicates that the efforts of all involved were definitely worthwhile.

See “Exercise” page 6

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW: 2004 SESSION

When the legislature adjourned this year, a number of bills had been passed that may impact or be of interest to the building services, fire protection, emergency medical services and emergency management communities. The following is a summary of those bills.

HB 1072 - *creates the requirement for people using explosives for mining (other than coal), construction, etc. to be certified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal.* This is the first time that Indiana has created a certification for these folks and it is intended to put in place regulations to address blasting at places like aggregate mines and road projects, areas that are not now regulated but that have been the source of complaints from the public.

HB 1019 - *for the first time regulates the use of indoor pyrotechnics at the state level.* It requires the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission to adopt the most recent version of NFPA 1126 and puts in place a notice requirement to the local fire department for anyone using indoor pyrotechnics. It also creates criminal penalties if someone is injured or killed as a result of the failure to follow the Commission's rules.

HB1019 - *Bull ride simulators and indoor pyrotechnics.* In addition to establish a program regulating pyrotechnics, this new law designates mechanical bull rides as an amusement device regulated by the Office of the State Building Commissioner. As of July 1, 2004, each owner of a regulated bull ride will need to register the ride with the Office of the State Building Commissioner and comply with the insurance requirements applicable to regulated amusement rides. As of July 1, 2005, a mechanical bull ride will need to comply with all requirements applicable to regulated amusement devices.

HB1136 - *Methamphetamine abuse task force.* This bill establishes a task force to review information and develop a long range plan for combating the abuse and manufacturing of methamphetamine.

HB1202 - *Public health threats.* The bill requires the state department of health to collect data related to symptoms and health syndromes from outbreaks of disease or other health conditions that may be a danger to public health. It requires a health provider that collects certain data to report this data to the State Department of Health. It also requires a school corporation or an accredited school to report to the local health department the percentage of student absences above a threshold

determined by the Department of Education. In addition, it adds Carisoprodol, a depressant, to the list of schedule IV controlled substances.

HB1203 - *Coal reclamation and water issues.*

This bill requires the owner of a dam to notify the department of natural resources (DNR) of the sale of the dam. It allows a property owner or an individual who lives downstream from a dam over which DNR does not have jurisdiction to request DNR to investigate whether the dam is a high hazard structure if the individual believes that the failure of the dam may cause loss of life or damage to the person's home or other structures. The bill provides that if DNR's investigation determines that the dam's failure may cause loss of life or damage to certain structures, the dam is subject to DNR's jurisdiction.

HB1257 - *Employment absence for volunteer firefighting.* This bill prohibits a political subdivision employer from disciplining an employee who is a volunteer firefighter for being absent from employment when the employee is responding to a fire or emergency call. It allows the employee to initiate a civil action against the employer that disciplines the employee for this reason. It authorizes the employer to request proof that the employee was engaged in fire or emergency activity when absent.

SB0036 - *Ballot language for constitutional amendments.* Establishes the ballot language, for the November 2004 elections, for the submission of three amendments to the Constitution of the State of Indiana. One of these amendments would establish the General Assembly's election of a governor and the temporary exercise of the governor's duties and powers when the offices of the governor and lieutenant governor are vacant.

SB0493 - *Professional licensing.*

This bill allows a licensing or regulating body, including the Emergency Medical Services Commission and the Department of Fire and Building Services, to waive continuing education requirements if an applicant is unable to complete the continuing education because of military service, incapacitating illness or injury, or other circum-

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AWARDS OVER \$54 MILLION TO INDIANA'S FIRST RESPONDERS

On the morning of April 16, 2004, Gov. Joe Kernan announced that the more than \$54 million in federal homeland security funds recently allocated to Indiana will soon be in the hands of local public safety agencies. Later that day, officials from the State Emergency Management Agency's Homeland Security Branch held two separate meetings with other state and local public safety, emergency management and government personnel. The sessions, held in the House of Representatives chamber in the Statehouse, focused on how the federal funds can be used and the statewide distribution process.

"Here in Indiana, we've worked hard to build strong partnerships between our state and local entities that have homeland security or emergency management responsibilities," Kernan said. "These sessions today put us several steps closer to quickly getting these funds in the hands of public safety agencies and strengthening our overall preparedness."

"Last year, a state strategic plan was created, based on local risk assessments completed by each of Indiana's 92 counties. A portion of these most recent federal funds will be distributed, based on that strategic plan, through grants to each county. The grants are expected to be awarded by the end of May," according to Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis, who chairs the state's Counter-Terrorism and Security Council.

"These dollars are key to ensuring that at the local community level we are addressing our homeland security needs," Davis said. "Our mission is two-fold: first, do all we can to prevent a security emergency, and second, make sure our local public safety officials - most specifically first responders - have all the resources they will need if a security emergency occurs."

"In the last year, we've received significant help in funding our homeland security priorities and at the state level, we've worked hard to quickly put these dollars to the best use, with our goal being Indiana's overall safety and preparedness at all levels," Kernan said.

ANNUAL EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITION DAY



From left to right, named as co-recipients for the 2003 Pridgen Award, Michael B. Bigler, Deputy State Fire Marshal, Patrick R. Ralston, Executive Director, SEMA/DFBS/PSTI, Pamela Schmalfeldt, Assistant to the Executive Director, along with James C. Pridgen.

"They're all winners!" These were the words of James C. Pridgen regarding all of the individuals who were nominated for the annual award which bears his name. Jim, a long-time supporter of public safety, is Director of Corporate Security for Cummins Inc. in Columbus, Indiana. He has an extensive background in crisis and emergency planning, executive protection, personal safety, and organizational security development, leadership and training. He is a member of the Indiana Emergency Response Commission and holds a proxy vote for the Indiana Emergency Management, Fire and Building Services, and Public Safety Training Foundation. In 1998, his dedication to public safety was honored by the creation of the Pridgen Award for the State Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Fire and Building Services, and Public Safety Training Institute employee(s) of the year.

Each year, the Pridgen Award presentation is part of SEMA's Employee Service Recognition Day ceremony.

“EXERCISE” from page 4

All agencies that took part in the Functional Scale Exercise successfully demonstrated their abilities to respond to the events designed in the exercise play. All agencies were assigned tasks according to their emergency support functions. These tasks represented possible events which might occur in the event of a real disaster or emergency. Agencies successfully demonstrated their ability to locate resources, implement use of these resources, and coordinate with other agencies during the exercise play.

Agencies made good use of information and disseminated that information effectively during the implemented shift changes on both days of the exercise. The use of the “Trac Sys” information system was an effective tool and all participants used this system as designed.

Participation with the United States First Army was successful in aiding the state with valuable information concerning roles and responsibilities of both entities in the event that a disaster such as the one exercised should ever occur.

Over all, the exercise can be construed as a successful achievement for the State of Indiana. The missions were successfully completed and the State and its agencies have learned valuable lessons for what plans, policies, and procedures need to be strengthened and further developed. ●

OPERATION STAY AFLOAT

What would happen if there was a flood and no one had to be evacuated and no homes were damaged? That would mean that mitigation is fully in place.

While the goal may be impossible to reach, that doesn’t mean the effort is not underway.

On March 24th the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) co-sponsored *Operation Stay Afloat*, a flood response and recovery conference. Representatives of local communities filled the Indiana Government South Auditorium to listen to ways they could help prevent damage to homes in their communities and help those who are affected by a flood event.

Flooding is the most common disaster facing Hoosiers. Almost every year the rivers rise and people find their lives changed forever. In 2003 alone heavy rains on Independence Day and Labor Day affected more than

10,000 homeowners and cost more than \$60 million in direct assistance in the forms of grants and temporary assistance. That does not include US Small Business Administration loans and payments from flood insurance.

Flood plain management is the key to preventing larger incidents in the future. Mitigation is an important factor by requiring homes to be above anticipated flood levels, or removing structures from repetitive flood prone areas and reserving them for green spaces.

Of course we know that floods will occur and people will be affected. The conference addressed the best ways to help those in need while limited damage in the future.

“Those in attendance learned of programs and concepts to assist them in reducing flood risk and the effects of flooding. These are the folks who will make a difference in our communities by developing and implementing mitigation strategies to prevent future damages,” said Phil Brown, Director of SEMA’s Mitigation & Recovery Division. “The conference was a great success,” according to Brown. ●

HOOSIER SAFETY Fall 2003

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“GRANT” *from page 5*

This most recent allocation includes:

\$10 million for the Marion and Hamilton counties’ Urban Area Security Initiative, which was designated by the federal agency in December. The designation is based on a set of factors that indicate areas that are at a higher risk.

\$10 million for the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, which is a new initiative aimed at the collection and analysis of counter-terrorism intelligence. Funds in this category can be used for planning, equipment and training relating to law enforcement.

\$33 million for the state’s homeland security program that can be used for planning, equipment and training for all first responders in all aspects of preparedness.

\$700,000 allocated to the Citizens Corps Program, which gives citizens the opportunity to volunteer their services in local public safety agencies and efforts.

At least 80 percent of the funds from each category must go to local public safety agencies. The remaining 20 percent will go to state agencies that have homeland security responsibilities.

Indiana’s Homeland Security Branch of SEMA works with a number of state and local partners, including Indiana State Police, the Indiana State Department of Health, C-TASC and local emergency response agencies.

This most recent allocation is in addition to the more than \$44 million received on March 30th for the State Homeland Security Grant Program for training, equipment, exercises and planning to help the first responders of Indiana better secure their communities. These funds are part of over \$8 billion the Department has allocated or awarded since March 1, 2003 to help our nation’s first responders and state and local governments to prevent, respond and recover from potential acts of terrorism and other potential disasters.

In all, \$96 million in federal dollars have been sent to the state of Indiana since the federal agency was created in 2003.

“TAYLOR” *from page 1*

sponses to state emergencies was an easy call for me.

“He will bring a local perspective to this position, which as a former mayor, I believe will be extraordinarily beneficial to Indiana,” Kernan added. “I am so thrilled Luther has agreed to serve our state and lead SEMA, and cannot wait to work with him on a regular basis again.”

Taylor started with the South Bend Fire Department in 1972 on a ladder truck, which included the duties of a tillerman. That’s the guy in the movies you see driving the rear end of the truck.

In 1972 he was promoted to Captain. This position gave him the responsibility of supervising fire scene operations and daily operations to include company level training.

Proving he had potential as a leader Chief Taylor was appointed Battalion Chief of Suppression in 1980. This position required Chief Taylor to supervise over 30 firefighters and daily operations on a larger scale. While in this position Chief Taylor implemented the South Bend Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team and served as the Hazardous Materials Coordinator in addition to his regular assignment.

In 1985 Taylor was given the position of Chief of the South Bend Fire Department. While he was Chief, the department experienced a great many public safety achievements. It improved its equipment rating from poor to excellent, established a tactical rescue team and a river rescue team. It also increased the number of EMS ambulances, providing EMS coverage countywide from two in 1995 to the present number of seven, and increased EMS revenue.

Director Taylor has extensive training in management, computers, communications, HAZMAT, radiological defense, and the Incident Command System. He also represented the mayor on the St. Joseph County Emergency Management Advisory Board.

Director Taylor looks forward to the challenges facing public safety today, realizing that we all face a common goal of making Indiana a safer place to live.

WELCOME! Director Taylor

“RALSTON” from page 1

1979 Governor Otis Bowen honored him for heroism for rescuing the life of a co-worker after an explosion at Turkey Run State Park, suffering serious injuries in the process.

He served as Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Terre Haute until Governor Evan Bayh appointed him Director of the Department of Natural Resources in 1989.

Governor Frank O'Bannon appointed Ralston as Executive Director SEMA/DFBS in 1997. His first day on the job marked the start of the start of the Great Ohio River Floods of 1997. His reaction was, “What have I gotten myself into?”

On his watch he led Indiana's response and recovery to seven major presidential disasters and two presidential emergencies, established a statewide terrorism task force, oversaw improvements in emergency medical services for Hoosiers, increased efficiencies processing building design release requests and amusement ride safety and the spread of fire safety education for children.

Ralston considers his greatest accomplishment the creation of Indiana Emergency Management, Fire and Building Services, and Public Safety Training Foundation. Its main source of income is the *Hoosier Safety* license plate. Sales have topped \$744,000 since it was introduced in 2000 and could easily reach \$1 million by the end of this year. That money has helped cash strapped local departments buy lifesaving equipment, provide training for responders and expand educational programs to keep children safe.

In recognition of his service to the state, Governor Joe Kernan named Ralston a Sagamore of the Wabash and the Indiana General Assembly passed a resolution commending him for his work.

Ralston is currently Vice President for Governmental Affairs and Economic Developmental Affairs for First Financial Corporation based in Terre Haute. ●

“LEGISLATION” from page 4

stances determined by the licensing or regulating body. It establishes an extension of time to: (1) renew a professional or an occupational license, certificate, registration, or permit; and (2) complete continuing education requirements; for an individual called to active duty in the armed forces of the United States or the Indiana army or air national guard.

Emergency Management Institute

EMI GRAM

FEMA/USFA

National Emergency Training Center

Emmitsburg, MD 21727

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

A majority of State Training Officers (STOs) have asked EMI to change the delivery method for Professional Development Series (PDS) Certificates of Completion. Effective immediately, for PDS completions done by independent study, the Independent Study Program Office will send each PDS Certificate of Completion directly to the student.

Each STO will continue to receive reports on recipients within his or her State to whom the certificate has been sent. Please note that the PDS Certificate of Completion has been modified to remove the signature blocks for the State Director and Chief Executive Officer and to add the Homeland Security seal and FEMA watermark.

From July 1, 2004, the Independent Study Program Office will manage all PDS testing and issuance of certificates. States will continue to have the option to offer the PDS independent study courses in group studies in order to have classroom interaction, networking and discussion, but all tests will be scored at the Independent Study Program Office (using the OpScan Form).

Between now and July 1, 2004, if there are students who have completed PDS courses by classroom or combination of classroom and independent study, States may request PDS Certificates of Completion for those students. Addresses for students should be included if the State wishes the certificates to be sent directly to students. Otherwise, EMI will send those certificates to the States for delivery to students.

For Further Information

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